

JANUARY 7, 1807.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

Authorizing the president of the United States to accept the service of a number of volunteer companies not exceeding thirty thousand men.



1 *Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled, That the*
3 president of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized to
4 accept of any company or companies, of volunteers, either of artille-
5 ry, cavalry, or infantry, who may associate and offer themselves
6 for the service, not exceeding thirty thousand men, who shall be
7 clothed and furnished with horses at their own expense, and armed
8 and equipped at the expense of the United States, except such of
9 them as may choose to furnish their own arms, and whose commis-
10 sioned officers shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by law
11 in the several states and territories to which such companies shall,

12 respectively, belong: *Provided*, That where any company, batta-
13 lion, regiment, brigade, or division of militia, already organized,
14 shall tender their voluntary service to the United States, such com-
15 pany, battalion, regiment, brigade, or division shall continue to be
16 commanded by the officers holding commissions in the same, at the
17 time of such tender, and any vacancy thereafter occurring shall be
18 filled in the mode pointed out by law in the state, or territory,
19 wherein the said company, battalion, regiment, brigade, or division
20 shall have been originally raised.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That any company, battalion,
2 regiment, brigade, or division thus offering itself for the service,
3 shall be liable to be called upon to do military duty at any time the
4 president of the United States shall judge proper, within two years
5 after he shall accept the same, and shall be bound to continue in
6 service for the term of months after they shall have
7 arrived at the place of rendezvous, unless sooner discharged, and
8 when called into actual service, and whilst remaining therein, shall
9 be under the same rules and regulations, and be entitled to the
10 same pay, rations, forage and emoluments of every kind, bounty
11 and clothing excepted, with the regular troops of the United States:
12 *Provided*, That in lieu of clothing, every non-commissioned officer
13 and private, in any company, who may thus offer themselves, shall
14 be entitled, when called into actual service, to receive, in money, a
15 sum equal to the cost of the clothing of a non-commissioned officer,
16 or private, (as the case may be) in the regular troops of the United
17 States.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the president of the
2 United States be, and he hereby is, authorized to organize the com-
3 panies so tendering their service as aforesaid into battalions, squad-
4 rons, regiments, brigades, and divisions, as soon as the number of
5 volunteers shall render such organization, in his judgment, expedient;
6 but until called into actual service, such companies shall be bound to
7 do regular militia duty as is required by law in like manner as be-
8 fore the passage of this act.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That in case any volunteer
2 above mentioned, while in actual service, shall sustain any damage,
3 by injury done to his horse, or such other equipment as shall have
4 been furnished at his own expense, or by loss of the same, without
5 any fault or negligence on his part, a reasonable sum, to be ascer-
6 tained in such manner as the president of the United States may
7 direct, shall be allowed and paid to such volunteer for each and
8 every such damage, or loss.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of
2 dollars, to be paid out of any monies in the
3 treasury not otherwise appropriated, be and the same hereby is
4 appropriated towards defraying any expense incurred by virtue of
5 the provisions of this act.